

Message Text

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43

ACTION OFA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5256

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 0545

DEPT ALSO FOR NMFS

CASABLANCA FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS MR

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON FISHING OFF MAURITANIA

REF: (A) NOUAKCHOTT 497, (B) CASABLANCA 267

1. DURING RECENT BRIEF VISIT TO NOUADHIBOU, EMB OFFICERS OBTAINED FOLLOWING CURRENT INFORMATION ON FISHING FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRY SOURCES. SUGGEST THIS DATA BE INCORPORATED AS APPROPRIATE INTO MAURITANIAN FISHERIES REPORT.

2. AS RESULT OF SAHARA SITUATION, SOCIETE ALGERO-MAURITANIANENNE DE PECHE (ALMAP) HAS STOPPED ALL OPERATIONS. ALGERIAN PERSONNEL WITH ALMAP AND FOUR FISHING VESSELS HAVE RETURNED TO ALGERIA.

3. TWO FISHMEAL FACTORIES--INSAMARTA AND OSMAR--LOCATED AT LA GUERA IN FORMER SPANISH SAHARA ARE COMPLETELY SHUT DOWN. BOTH FACTORIES WERE BADLY DAMAGED DURING BATTLE FOR LA GUERA BETWEEN MAURITANIA AND POLISARIO/ALGERIANS. IN FACT, INSAMARTA SERVED AS POLISARIO HEADQUARTERS. ALL OF THE EQUIPMENT MUST BE REPLACED BEFORE FACTORIES CAN OPERATE AGAIN.

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4. THERE ARE CURRENTLY 35 SMALL SOVIET FISHING

VESSELS AND EIGHT FACTORY SHIPS OPERATING IN MAURITANIAN WATERS. AT PRESENT TIME, THERE ARE NO ROMANIAN FISHING VESSELS OPERATING OFF MAURITANIA.

5. MAURITANIAN FISHING GROUNDS HAVE UNDERGONE SOME OVERFISHING IN RECENT MONTHS. DELIVERY OF FISH TO INDUSTRY AT NOUADHIBOU, THEREFORE, IS DOWN. INDUSTRY SOURCES SAID SOCIETE MAURITANO-KOWEITIEENNE D'ARMAMENT ET DE PECHE (SOMAKAP) AND MAURITANIAN FISHERY COMPANY (MAFCO) ARE DOING PARTICULARLY WELL. LARGEST OPERATION IN NOUADHIBOU, INDUSTRIES MAURITANIENNES DE PECHE (IMAPEC) IS STILL HAVING DIFFICULTIES, PARTICULARLY IN ARRANGING FOR ADEQUATE DAILY SUPPLY OF FISH. SAHARA SITUATION IS ALSO BELIEVED TO HAVE HAD SOME ADVERSE IMPACT ON FISHING INDUSTRY GENERALLY.

6. IN REPLY TO REF B, COASTLINE FROM TIP OF CAP BLANC TO DAKHLA IS ABOUT 400 KILOMETERS LONG.HANDYSIDE

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